



STAFF REPORT

Receipt of Multiple State Awards

Iowa students that qualify for multiple state-funded student financial aid programs are allowed to receive awards under each program. State financial aid is limited only when a student's full need (as defined by the Commission) is met.

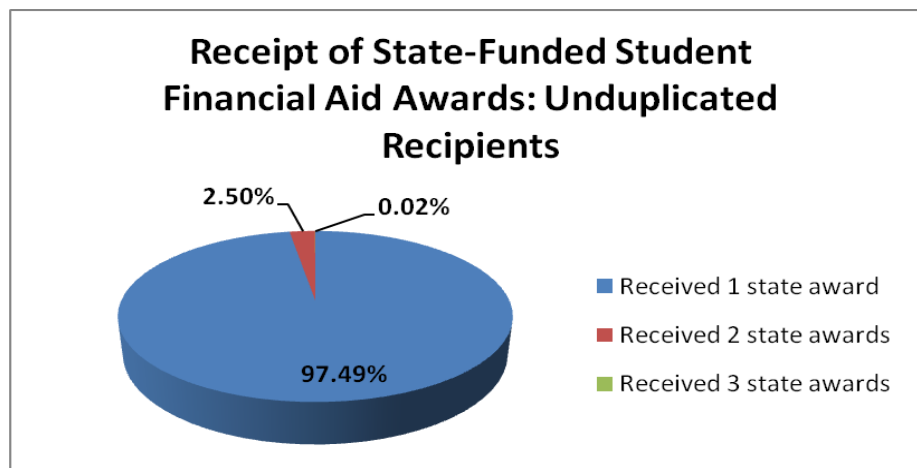
This technique in the distribution of funds is referred to as 'stacking'. There are various methods of stacking, but generally the process involves compiling each financial aid award that the student is eligible to receive until he/she either qualifies for nothing else or the student's total financial aid hits a maximum eligibility requirement (such as meeting the student's financial need or cost of attendance).

The data in this report provides insight into the prevalence of stacking in regard to state-funded financial aid awards.

How many Iowans receive funding through multiple state-funded scholarship and grant programs?

There are currently 8¹ unique state-appropriated scholarship and grant programs funded by the State of Iowa. Each of these programs has specific eligibility criteria, but most have the same general intent – providing grant funding to financially needy Iowa residents attending Iowa colleges and universities. If a student applicant meets the eligibility criteria for multiple state awards, that student can receive funds from those program sources (within certain limits, such as financial need or cost of attendance). This, in essence, leads to stacking of state awards.

In total, 25,078 awards were made during the 2011-12 academic year under the Iowa Tuition Grant (ITG), Iowa Vocational-Technical Tuition Grant (IVTG), All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship (AIOS), All Iowa Opportunity Foster Care Grant (AIOFCG), Iowa Grant (IG), Barber and Cosmetology Arts and Sciences Tuition Grant (B&C) and Iowa National Guard Educational Assistance Program (NGEAP). A total of 24,459 unduplicated Iowa students received state funded scholarships and grants in 2011-12. Of this total, 615 students (2.5%) received awards from two or more state-funded programs (4 students {0.02%} received funds through three state-funded programs).



¹ The Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant is the 8th student financial aid program currently administered by the Commission. This program was created during the 2012 legislative session, and implemented for the 2012-13 academic year. Thus, there is no 2011-12 data to report in Table 1.

The chart below shows the number of students that received awards from more than one program. The first column of the chart indicates the primary program of receipt.

Table 1: Recipients Receiving Awards from More than One State Program

Percentages within each field should be read as follows: “{x} percentage of {column 1 Program} recipients also received an {top row program name} award”. For example, 1.33% of Iowa Grant (IG) recipients also received an All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship (AIOS). The shaded boxes represent total recipients in each program.

Program {Column 1}	ITG	IVTG	AIOS	AIOFCG	IG	NGEAP	B&C
Iowa Tuition Grant (ITG)	18,791 100%	0 0%	48 0.26%	40 0.21%	350 1.86%	102 0.54%	0 0%
Iowa Vocational Technical Tuition Grant (IVTG)	0 0%	3,037 100%	14 0.46%	1 0.03%	3 0.1%	26 0.86%	0 0%
All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship (AIOS)	48 11.06%	14 3.23%	434 100%	15 3.46%	16 3.69%	3 0.69%	0 0%
All Iowa Opportunity Foster Care Grant (AIOFCG)	40 32.79%	1 0.82%	15 12.3%	122 100%	1 0.82%	1 0.82%	0 0%
Iowa Grant (IG)	350 29.19%	3 0.25%	16 1.33%	1 0.08%	1,199 100%	8 0.67%	0 0%
Iowa National Guard Educational Assistance Program (NGEAP)	102 7.2%	26 1.84%	3 0.21%	1 0.07%	8 0.56%	1,416 100%	0 0%
Barber and Cosmetology Tuition Grant (B&C)	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	79 100%

The percentage of recipients of two state financial aid programs has more shock value when viewing it in terms of a program with a limited number of recipients. For instance, the number of Iowa Tuition Grant recipients who also receive AIOFCG awards is less than ½ of a percentage point (0.21%) while the number of AIOFCG recipients that receive an Iowa Tuition Grant is 32.79%. Cumulatively, the numbers are surprisingly low. Although on a program-by-program basis, some percentages may seem high, such as the example above. When analyzing the data, it is important to consider the size of the recipient population if a comparison is being made.